औद्योगिक घरानों के टेलीफोनों का चोरी छिपे सुना जाना

365. मौलाना अबेदुल्ला खान आजमी: क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हाल ही में औद्योगिक घरानों के टेलीफोनों को चोरी छिपे सुना गया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं, और इस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) : (क) और (ख) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और इसे सभा पटल पर रख दिया जाएगा ।

PCOs in rural areas

366. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the present coverage of rural PCOs in the country and the quantum of additions envisaged for the 8th Five Year Plan Period.

(b) the state-wise/district-wise details of post offices in rural areas which do not have a PCO and the time-frame provided to instal a PCO in every village Post Office;

(c) whether applicants from SC ST and Backward Classes are given preferential treatment in the matter of allotment of private PCOs; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) As on 28.02 1995, the total number of villages having the coverage of rural PCOs is 1,70,241. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, a total quantum of additions envisaged is coverage or 3,86,418 villages comprising of all 236418 Panchayat villages, and an additional 1,50,000 non-Panchayat villages.

(b) The information is being collected and will be placed on tse table of the House.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No such treatment is given in case of rural areas. However, in case of urban areas wherever there is a Constraint in the exchange capacity, such preferencial treatment is given to the applicants from SC/ST and Backward classes of society in allotment of private PCOs.

Changes in telecom policy

367. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any shift in its new Telecom Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the benefits expected out of it;

(c) when the rural areas will get benefit of telecom services;

(d) whether Government have any plans to give telephones immediately to every-one who demands, without waiting for longer periods, in the urban areas, particularly in Ahmedabad and metropolitan cities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of reply to (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) A policy decision was taken in January, 1991 to provide telephone facility to all Panchayat villages of the country progressively by 31st March, 1995, subject to availability of resources. The new Telecom Policy, 1994 envisages coverage of all villages for the purpose of telephone facility by 1997. Private sector participation has also been envisaged for achieving this goal. As part of this programme, following services are planned:

(i) To provide one public telephone in each village by the end of 8th Five Year Plan.

(ii) Open small exchange at a place, whenever paid registered demand exceeds 10.

As on 28.02.95, above 1,70,000 villages have been provided with Telecom Services.

(d) The objectives of the 8th Five Year Plan (1992-97) of the Department of Telecommunications envisage:

— waiting period for providing telephone connections not to exceed two years in large telephone systems.

However, National Telecom Policy, 1994 envisages providing telephone connections practically on demand by 1997 all over the country including Ahmedabad and metropolitan cities.

(e) Basic Services are being opened to private sector for which tenders have been called to supplement the efforts of Department of Telecom in meeting the objectives of National Telecom Policy, 1994.

**Malfunctioning of the MTNL**

368. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "British system to check MTNL malfunctioning" reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 9th February, 1995;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to seek the help of the UK in checking the malfunctioning of MTNL;

(c) the details of loopholes and discrepancies found in the working of MTNL; and

(d) the other corrective measures taken to streamline the functioning of MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) MTNL is a big organisation whose network has crossed 2 million telephone lines mark recently and is growing at around 20 per cent. annum. For maintenance of cable records in such a large system and periodical monitoring their health, automatic processes through computer controlled systems are necessary. A pilot project with the help of Telecom. Engineering Centre has been proposed to improve the reliability of cable data and record keeping. Various other measures taken to improve the services by MTNL are given in Statement.

**Statement**

*Steps taken to improve services in MTNL*

Several measures have been taken towards betterment of services by improving reliability as well as by improving customer inferface. These are as under:

1. *TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AND MEDIA:*

(a) Introduction of Electronic Exchanges.

(b) Introduction of Electronic Taxs.

(c) Introduction of Electronic Transit Exchanges.

(d) Phasing out of old and life expired electro mechanical exchanges.

(e) Introduction of optical fibre and digital cicrowave system for interexchange junctions.

2. *EXTERNAL PLANT:*

(a) Laying of under ground cables induets.

(b) Pressurisation of paper core under-ground cables.

(c) Use of jelly filled PVC insulated under-ground cables.

(d) Use of improved termination devices employing insulation displacement technique. It pron